IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring data from a first application having a legacy data base with a first format to a second application within a legacy data base management system employing a second format which is incompatible with said first format comprising:

a. determining [[a]] said first format associated with said data;

b. ascertaining a location of said data;

c. packing an identifier of said format and an identifier of said location into a message having a predefined format;

d. transferring said message from said first application to said second application;

e. unpacking said message to determine said format and said location; and

f. accessing said data by said second application using said indication of said format and said indication of said location.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said data further comprises a plurality of data objects.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein said predefined format further comprises Extended Markup Language.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein said transferring step further comprises transferring via a publically accessible digital data communication network..

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4 wherein said publically accessible digital data communication network further comprises the Internet.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a. a first application program <u>located within a first computer and having a data base with a first format</u>;

b. a second application program <u>located within a second computer and having a legacy data base with a second format which is incompatible with said first format</u> responsively coupled to said first application program;

c. a message having a preexisting format generated by said first application program for transfer to said second application program;

d. a data object responsively coupled to said first application program having <u>an indication of</u> a location and having a <u>an indication of said second</u> format; and

e. wherein said message contains a definition of said location and said second format.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 further comprising a publically accessible digital data communication network wherein said first application program is responsively coupled to said second application program via said publically accessible digital data network.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said preexisting format further comprises Extended Markup Language.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising a user terminal containing said first application program.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said publically accessible digital data communication network further comprises the Internet.

11. (Original) An apparatus comprising:

a. first application program means for providing a user interface;

b. second application program means responsively coupled to said first application program means for offering a data processing service;

c. data object means responsively coupled to said first application program means having a location and a format; and

d. message generation means responsively coupled to said first application program means for preparing a message having a preexisting format for transfer of said location and format of said data object means from first application program means to said second application program means.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said ~~permitting~~ providing means further comprises means for generating a second service request.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 12 further comprising publically accessible digital data communication network means for responsively coupling said first application program means and said second application program means.

14. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said publically accessible digital data communication network means further comprises the Internet.

15. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said preexisting format further comprises Extended Markup Language.

16. (Currently Amended) [[In a]] A data processing system having a first application program located within a first computer and having a data base with a first format responsively coupled to a second application program located within a second computer and having a legacy data base with a second format~~, the improvement~~ comprising:

a. a data object having an indication of a location and [[a]] an indication of said second format;

b. a message having a preexisting format for transfer from said first application program to said second application program; and

c. wherein said message contains said location and format.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~improvement~~ data processing system according to claim 16 further comprising a publically accessible digital data communication network which responsively couples said first application program to said second application program.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~improvement~~ data processing system according to claim 17 wherein said publically accessible digital data communication network further comprises the Internet.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~improvement~~ data processing system according to claim 18 further comprising a user terminal housing said first application program.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~improvement~~ data processing system according to claim 19 wherein said preexisting format further comprises Extended Markup Language.

21. (Original) An apparatus comprising:

a. a user terminal having a first application program;

b. a second application program responsively coupled to said first application program via a publically accessible digital data network;

c. a message having a preexisting Extended Markup Language format generated by said first application program for transfer to said second application program;

d. a data object responsively coupled to said first application program having a location and having a second format which is incompatible with said preexisting Extended Markup Language; and

e. wherein said message contains a definition of said location and said second format.